

Varsity Girls' Soccer Achieves Almont League Championship

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Staff Writer

The varsity girls' soccer team had high expectations for themselves this season and have pushed themselves to be the best athletes they could be. As their first California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) game approaches, the team has been working hard to accomplish their ultimate goal of qualifying past the third round of CIF.

The girls had mercilessly swept through the season's ten games, resulting in seven wins, two ties and one loss. The team wrapped up their season with an away game, a 5-0 win against San Gabriel on Feb. 12. This win was significant because it secured the Moors' title as the 2015 Almont League Champions. "We worked together as a team to get first [in the league] and we have overcome the bumps

in the road, coming together as a family," junior defensive player Christine Gomez said.

The girls continued to practice four days a week for three hours at Moor Field to prepare for CIF. For the duration of practice, they conditioned, ran, carried out passes and practiced ball control, defensive and offensive plays. They also played scrimmage games, mainly accentuating understanding the team and communication abilities.

"We had a lot of bumps in the road, but I'm proud of my girls for always doing their best on the field. We were determined, focused and had the desire to do well," senior captain Xiomara Diaz said.

The girls' have had their handful of difficulties this season, but nonetheless have accomplished their goal of becoming Almont League champions for the season and continue to motivate them-



MOOR photo by SHANNON KHA

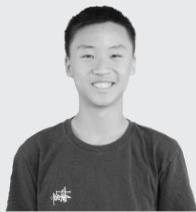
CIF READY In preparation for their CIF game against Marshall High School on Thursday, Feb. 19, Varsity Girls' soccer conditions with drills during their practice at Moor Field.

selves and each other to fight for their spot in CIF. On Thursday, Feb. 18, the Moors won their first

CIF game. With the score tied at 1-1, the Moors prevailed 4-3 on penalty kicks against the Marshall

Eagles. The Moors now go to the second round with an away game against the Bloomington Bruins.

SIMSANITY: Collegiate Sports For Academic Credit?



SIMEON LAM
Sports Editor

Sports at the college level have been known to take loads of time. Practice in the mornings and nights dictates athletes like another class. Yet these same athletes can't use this time towards a major or any classes that will help them graduate since most will not make it to the pros. In January, two former University of North Carolina (UNC) students filed a lawsuit claiming that the university and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) failed to educate them. Upon investigation at UNC, the graduation rate for Division-1 athletes in major sports like football and basketball was about 50%.

Now what could be done to help athletes graduate? The easiest way would be to allow them gain academic credits through their sports directly. Since these players already spend about 50 hours a week with their respective sports, it would be reasonable if not right for them to

be able to use it in a way that helps their future. For example, according to The New York Times, a good way to educate would be to have athletes evaluate themselves, strategize and keep daily logs of trends, something that uses critical thinking like other academic majors.

Some people say that sports just involve action and athleticism. However, as an athlete, it takes much more than that. The strategies, the plays, the injuries and recovery overlay all involve some type of learning and application. The time put in throughout the week involves lots of thinking, memorization and a test during the games. It's almost like a traditional class but in its own unique way. In my opinion, the NCAA should look deeper in this aspect to allow athletes who don't make the pros a better chance to graduate and be successful in the future. If anything, the NCAA needs to live up to its name and provide the best opportunity of education, even to athletes.

MOOR graphic by LESLIE HWANG

Two Indiana High School Basketball Teams Brawl, Leads To Cancelled Season

WESLEY TSAI
Staff Writer

While most high school teams are playing in regional playoffs, two Indiana high school basketball teams had their season cut short after a massive on-court brawl due to a flagrant foul. The brawl started when Griffith High School was leading Hammond High School with a score of 4-0. With an opportunity to dunk, Griffith player Anthony Murphy went up for a dunk when a Hammond player fouled him pushing him to the wall perpendicular to the baseline floor. Milli-seconds after, players and audience members rushed to the floor, starting a melee.

"It's the worst flagrant foul I've ever seen since I've been coaching," Gary Hayes, Griffith's

68-year-old coach said according to The New York Daily News. "It was like a tackle in football. [Murphy] went into the wall like a rag doll."

With the help of the local police department, the brawl was ceased and the game was called off due to the violence. According to Sports Illustrated, both teams' seasons were cut with penalties that had to be paid by athletes, along with paying \$500 for every forfeiting away game in their season. The Indiana High School Athletics Association (IHSAA) also put both teams on probation for the 2015-2016 school year along with coaches being put in education programs.

"I think it was appropriate to cancel both teams' seasons. The athletes should know that they have to keep their cool during a

game. Breaking the rule of 'no fighting' should result in a severe punishment to prevent students and athletes from being too violent for future references," senior Travis Nguyen said.

As for providing safety for both the players and the audiences, it was fortunate that the police department was watching the local basketball game, providing as much safety as possible during the brawl. To provide future safety for instances like this, the IHSAA plans to put emphasis on maximum security for players and people who are involved with the game because they realize that the health of the athletes and the crowd is more important than winning the game itself.

MOOR graphic by SAMMIE CHEN

Varsity Boys' Basketball Anticipates Next Season

KEVIN KONG
Sports Editor

Finishing the regular Almont League season with a record of 3-7 and 11-16 overall, the varsity boys' basketball team was unable

to qualify for the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) preliminaries. The team, however, looks forward to the upcoming year by hoping to progress and qualify by obtaining a higher rank in the future.

"Defense and team chemistry should be stronger [next year] since many players [will] have played together for three years," junior point guard Jonathan Barajas said. "We will be a much different team since more than half the team [members this year] were seniors."

Losing a majority of the team

including two starters, the team is expected to be experienced while being able to maintain a solid number of newcomers who could help add to the foundation of the squad. The Moors, according to Barajas, will prepare by practicing two weeks earlier in order to improve on conditioning.

"The boys battled hard and I am proud of them. We were just a little short handed down the stretch. The boys stayed optimistic [...] and even though we did not make the playoffs, they can build off of this because it can provide motivation [...] into the next year," Head Coach Bryan Gonzalez said.

The team plans to begin the offseason early in the spring and participate in the summer league to gain experience going into next season.

- Jonathan Barajas

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